

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A firearm identification kit comprising:
a computer readable data storage media in which is stored:
identifying indicia corresponding to a firearm; and
at least one image of a spent cartridge case fired by the firearm.
2. The kit according to claim 1 further comprising at least one spent cartridge case that has been fired by the firearm.
3. The kit according to claim 2 further comprising a protective case for storing the computer readable data storage media and the at least one spent cartridge case.
4. The kit according to claim 1, wherein the at least one image is compatible with an automated ballistic matching system.
5. The kit according to claim 1, wherein the image is compatible with the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network.
6. The kit according to claim 1 in which the data storage media is a non-volatile data storage media.
7. The kit according to claim 6, wherein the data storage media comprises an optical disk.
8. The kit according to claim 7, wherein the optical disk cannot be erased.
9. The kit according to claim 1, further comprising data for ensuring the integrity of the firearm identification information.
10. The kit according to claim 1, wherein the data storage media comprises human readable indicia corresponding to the firearm associated with the kit.

11. The kit according to claim 1, wherein the at least one image includes a close-up image of a breech face of a spent cartridge case.

12. The kit according to claim 11, wherein the computer readable storage media further includes textual descriptions of the at least one image.

13. A method of identifying a firearm, comprising:
obtaining from the owner of a firearm a computer readable storage media including at least one image of a first spent cartridge case fired by the firearms;
obtaining an image of a second spent cartridge case;
comparing the images of the first and second shells; and
determining whether the images of the first and second shells match.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein obtaining the image of the spent cartridge case comprises selecting an image from a plurality of images of spent cartridge cases.

15. A gun kit, comprising:
a firearm; and
a digital media on which is stored at least one image of a cartridge case fired by the firearm.